



# Department of Justice

**Acting United States Attorney James R. Klindt**  
**Middle District of Florida**

Tampa

Orlando

Jacksonville

Fort Myers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 23, 2007

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr>

CONTACT: STEVE COLE

PHONE: (813) 274-6136

FAX: (813) 274-6300

## **BRANDON MAN CONVICTED OF DRUGS AND GUN POSSESSION**

Tampa, FL - Acting United States Attorney James R. Klindt announced today that at the conclusion of a non-jury trial on April 23, 2007, United States District Judge Susan C. Bucklew found DEREK McCALLA, age 38, of Brandon, Florida, guilty of two counts of possession of a firearm while being a convicted felon, one count of possession with intent to distribute cocaine, and one count of possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking offense. McCALLA was charged in an indictment on December 14, 2006.

According to the evidence at the trial, Tampa Police officers encountered McCALLA on June 30, 2006. After a traffic stop and a struggle with the officers, the officers subdued McCALLA and discovered that he was armed with a loaded Taurus .38 caliber pistol on his person.

In a separate incident, Temple Terrace Police officers arrested the defendant on October 24, 2005 after a traffic stop. In the center console of his car, they located more than 116 grams of cocaine and a loaded Taurus 9mm. pistol. Prior to the date of both incidents, McCALLA had been convicted of a number of felony offenses.

This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program “Project Safe Neighborhoods” - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Acting United States Attorney James R. Klindt is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jay L. Hoffer of the Special Prosecutions Section in the Tampa Division.